Children Working in Hazardous con-tiong

2448 SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LASHER: Will the PRIM'S MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 28 million child labourers in the country 23 per cent of whom are working in hazardous conditions; and

(b) if so, th$_e$ measures Government propose to take to enforce the laws for their protection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987 June 1988) of the National Sample Survey, the number of child laborers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million. No authentic data is available regarding children working in hazardous conditions.

(b) The Child Labour ..(Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain specified ex-cupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their contions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from work. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act 1966 the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of th$_e$ States/ Union Territories etc, which either prohibit or regulae the employment of children in specific areas The Government have also formulated the national policy on child labour, 1987 which provides for a.number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children. Under the NCL Policy project based plan of action has been launched in 9 areas of high concentraion of child labour. Unai assistance is also provided to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of child labour.

Enforcement of child labour legis lation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments] administra tions of Union Territories. They have been addressed from time to time to ensure strict enforcement of the laws. With a view to further strengthen the enforcement Machine ry, 50 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments under a centrally sponsored plan scheme.

National wage policy commission

2449. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering setting up of a National wage policy Commission on a permanent basis;

(b) whether Government have discussed this with the trade union; and

(c) if so, trade unions reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(a) and (c) Do not arise.

National Convention of Human Rights

2450. SHRl P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Convention on Human Rights, held i$_n$ Delhi some-time ago, has suggested an Action Plan to end child labour and their exploitation; and

(b) what action Government have taken on the recommendations of this convention?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The Ministry of Labour has not held a National Convention on Human Rights in Delhi. No Action Plan relating to child labour if suggested in any such convention has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Workers in foreign countries

2451. SHRl RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian citizens work'ng/employed in foreign coun tries;

(b) the names of such major coun tries where Indian citizens are em ployed; and

(c) country-wise number during the year 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWR): (a)

to (c) The information is being col lected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Oil slick in the Bay of Bengal

2452. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil slick has been moving fas in the Bay of Bengal threatening Sunderbans forestg besides animal and plant life;

(b) if so, he detaails thereof; and

(c) what measures Government have taken to tackle this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (h) An oil slick was sighted in the Bay of Bengal in the territorial waters of Bangladesh about 40 kms. south of New Moore Island. The slick had been deportedly caused when crude oil was being transferred from a Singapore based tanker to a small Bangladesh tanker off the Chittagong coast. It was initially 13 Kms. long but later split intoo small patches. According to latest information the slick is not visible in the Sunderbans area and does not pose any threat to animal and plant life and mangrove forests [m] Sunderbans.

(c) As the slick is not presently visible, no action is required to tacle it. However, the concerned authorities have been alerted to continue monitoring the environment of the Sunderbans area.

Exploitation of Mineral Deposits in Indian Ocean

2453. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "India joins race to top mineral-rich Iiidian Ocean" appearing in The Pioneer, New Delhi edition of 24th February, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have imported any technology know-how to carry out explanatory work in the Indian Ocean; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what efforts are being made to train the manpower in mining of seabed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The item describe* at length the efforts being made by India in the field *ot* deep seabed mining.